

What is claimed is:

1. An instrument for manipulating a vessel in a patient comprising:  
a cannula having a lumen for providing insufflation to create a working space in the tissue of a patient; and  
a first manipulator for manipulating a vessel located within the working space, the first manipulator slidably movable within the cannula from a stowed position, wherein the first manipulator is substantially disposed within the cannula, to a forward position, wherein at least a portion of the first manipulator is disposed outside the cannula, the first manipulator being rotatable when in the forward position to an extended position.
2. The instrument of claim 1, the first manipulator comprises a first rod having a distal end and a proximal end, and a first paddle connected to a distal portion of the first rod.
3. The instrument of claim 2, wherein the first paddle is shaped to nest within the cannula when the first paddle is in the stowed position.
4. The instrument of claim 3, wherein the first paddle has a curved portion.
5. The instrument of claim 5, wherein the curved portion forms a concave surface that faces away from the cannula when the first paddle is in the extended position.
6. The instrument of claim 2, comprising:  
a second manipulator, the second manipulator comprising a second rod having a distal end and a proximal end, the second rod being spaced from the first rod; and  
a second paddle connected to a distal portion of the second rod, the second paddle having a stowed position and a forward position.
7. The instrument of claim 6, wherein the first rod and the second rod extend distally in a longitudinal direction, and one of the first paddle and the second paddle is offset in the longitudinal direction with respect to the other of the first paddle and the second paddle.

8. The instrument of claim 1, comprising:
  - a handle;
  - a first actuator disposed on the handle and operably connected to the first manipulator for moving the first manipulator from the forward position to the extended position.
9. The instrument of claim 8, comprising:
  - a first movable rack attached to the first actuator; and
  - a first pinion engaged with the rack, the first pinion being connected to the proximal end of the first rod.
10. The instrument of claim 9, comprising a first wire having a proximal end attached to the first actuator and a distal end attached to the first rack.
11. The instrument of claim 8, comprising a second actuator operably connected to the first manipulator for moving the first manipulator from the stowed position to the forward position
12. A method of manipulating a vessel, comprising the steps of:
  - providing an instrument having a lumen for providing an insufflation fluid, and a first manipulator having a forward position and an extended position;
  - making an incision in a patient;
  - inserting at least the distal end of the instrument into the incision;
  - creating a working space in the tissue of the patient near the vessel with the distal end of the instrument by permitting an insufflation fluid to flow through the lumen and into the incision; and
  - manipulating the vessel by rotating the first manipulator from the forward position to the extended position.
13. The method of claim 12, wherein the first manipulator is disposed at least partially within the instrument in stowed position, and comprising the step of moving the first manipulator distally from the stowed position to the forward position prior to the manipulation step.

14. The method of claim 12, wherein the first manipulator comprises a first rod and a first paddle attached to a distal portion of the first rod, and the manipulation step comprises rotating the paddle about an axis defined by the first rod to move the vessel away from the distal end of the instrument.

15. A method for creating operative space and manipulating a vessel, comprising the steps of:

providing an instrument having a lumen for providing an insufflation fluid, a first manipulator and a second manipulator, the first and second manipulators each having a forward position and an extended position;

making an incision in a patient;

inserting at least the distal end of the instrument into the incision;

creating a working space in the tissue of the patient near the vessel with the distal end of the instrument by permitting an insufflation fluid to flow through the lumen and into the incision; and

manipulating the vessel by moving one of the first manipulator and the second manipulator from the forward position to the extended position.